



CSSP Leadership Spotlight



**Mark Klukow, CSSP
Sergeant
Minneapolis Police
Department**

Mark Klukow holds the rank of Sergeant with the Minneapolis Police Department and is currently assigned as the Special Events permitting official. In this role, Mark performs hazard and vulnerability assessments for events, races, concerts and parades that re-purpose public space within the city. During his 23 year career in law enforcement, Mark has worked most other jobs within the police department with much variety, from undercover narcotics and dignitary protection to School Resource Officer and Bike Patrol. He spent many years as an emergency responder performing assigned duties in and around the stadiums and event spaces within Minneapolis.

Over the past five years, Mark has worked directly in sport and special event safety and security. On an annual basis, Mark works in close collaboration with the Twin Cities Marathon race operations staff to plan, prepare, and coordinate public safety resources for the weekend event which attracts over 20,000 participants. Target hardening measures, police staffing and mitigating vehicle intrusion are elements of Event Action Plans that are the result of Mark's work. Notably, Mark served as the Executive Officer to the Incident Commander of public safety during Super Bowl 52 held in downtown Minneapolis at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Mark was introduced to the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS4) by way of the annual Marathon and Running Events Safety and Security Best Practices Summits. Mark has been a key contributor to the development of best practices for this industry segment, bridging the gap between law enforcement and event operations. In 2018, Mark earned his Certified Sport Security Professional (CSSP) certification through NCS4. "The potential to learn and share best practices within an industry that has a wide spectrum of public safety applications and vulnerability assessment motivated me to pursue the CSSP," said Mark. He also credits the opportunity to meet and network with event managers and other non-law enforcement professionals involved in safety and security as a major draw to the CSSP certification.

"When confronted with the challenge of securing outdoor event spaces, it is helpful to understand when, where, why, and how to implement common protectionist measures", says Mark. He continued, "As a CSSP, staying connected to the other professionals in this event industry has been invaluable while trouble-shoot problems during the planning process. When security measures have been vetted and used in other cities and towns, the kinks are worked out and initial implementation is simple to explain, plan for, and execute."

When asked what professional certification standards mean to the field of sport and special event safety and security, Mark responded saying, "By mandating a level of public safety core

competencies within the event industry, we are acknowledging the talents of our colleagues and respecting their participation in respectful dialogue as they perform necessary work in building and maintaining an event public safety apparatus. Common in municipal police organizations is the tactically proficient police manager, without ground-level event experience. These well-intentioned police leaders interact with seasoned event professionals and gaps are prevalent in the common operating picture. These gaps of mutual understanding result in acrimony and weak public safety during the execution of an event. The CSSP credential elevates the emergency action planning process and strategy to a professional level and allows people from all realms to come to the planning table with respect for each other's mission."

For other professionals interested in pursuing the CSSP, Mark advises playing close attention during the CSSP Review Course and taking notes during the class. He stated that that the study guide and coursework were equally demanding and necessary to digest in order to succeed on the exam. "I found the business and facility management section to be the most difficult due to my lack of application coming from the law enforcement realm," said Mark. There are areas in each section that could present difficulty based on previous experiences and education. "The CSSP Review Course was helpful in identifying areas of strength and weakness which enabled me to focus my study and exam preparation," he says.

Mark holds a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. He recently completed a three-year project as the Executive Officer to the overall Public Safety Commander of SB52. He has also taken on a new role as a trainer for DHS/FEMA approved training courses on event safety and risk management.

If you are a sports safety and security professional looking to advance your career by pursuing the CSSP certification, contact CertificationSupport@usm.edu, or call 601-266-6099 or go to www.NCS4.com/CSSP.